

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an electronic security function with a user, comprising:

imprinting the user with at least one primitive determined from a sensory mechanism;

determining a number of electronic presentation steps, thereby providing variable probability levels for customizable security; and

at least one of automatically authorizing, identifying or authenticating the user according to an electronically detected ability of said user to discriminate between said at least one imprinted primitive and at least one non-imprinted primitive, said at least one imprinted primitive and said at least one non-imprinted primitive being presented to said user in said number of electronic presentation steps.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said imprinting comprises implicit learning by the user.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one primitive is used to encrypt a message according to a one-way function.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one primitive is used only once.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one primitive is exposed using a near-zero knowledge protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said sensory mechanism comprises vision, such that said at least one primitive comprises an image.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said recognizing said image comprises:

training the user on a plurality of trained images; and

testing the user on a combination of a trained image with at least one distractor image.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one distractor image comprises a plurality of distractor images.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said testing comprises:

selecting a plurality of different trained images by the user in sequence, said sequence providing said primitive for determining said at least one of authorizing, identifying or authenticating the user.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically authenticating, authorizing or identifying a user, comprising:

training the user with information through a sensory mechanism;

determining a number of electronic presentation steps, thereby providing variable probability levels for customizable security; and

electronically determining accurate discrimination by said user between at least one imprinted primitive and at least one non-imprinted primitive, to automatically authenticate, authorize or identify the user, said at least one imprinted primitive and said at least one non-imprinted primitive being presented to said user in said number of electronic presentation steps.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for use of an electronic one-way function for authenticating, authorizing or identifying a user, comprising:

imprinting the user with a primitive;

determining a number of electronic presentation steps, thereby providing variable probability levels for customizable security; and

electronically testing said imprinting with at least a similar or identical primitive to automatically authenticate, authorize or identify the user, wherein said testing comprises electronically determining whether the user is capable of discriminating between at least one imprinted primitive and at least one non-imprinted primitive, said at least one imprinted primitive and at said least one non-

imprinted primitive being presented to said user in said number of electronic presentation steps.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said primitive is derived from input according to a sensory mechanism.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said input comprises at least one image and said sensory mechanism is visual.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said input comprises at least one pseudoword and said sensory mechanism is verbal.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said sensory mechanism is selected from the group consisting of tactile, olfactory, audible and taste.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said testing comprises determining whether the user is capable of discriminating between an imprinted primitive and a non-imprinted primitive.